

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00
INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-08 PRS-01 USIE-00 INRE-00 /048 W
-----007912 251700Z /64
O 251611Z JAN 78 ZFF-4
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6769

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 00375

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (TODMAN, TERENCE A.), ES
SUBJECT: CALL BY ANEP LEADERS ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

1. DELEGATION FROM ASOCIACION NACIONAL DE LA EMPRESA PRIVADA (ANEP) WILL CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN AT EMBASSY THURSDAY, JANUARY 26 AT 3:00 P.M. FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WILL COMPOSE DELEGATION: EDUARDO LEMUS O'BYRNE, PRESIDENT; ERNESTO RIVAS GALLONT, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT; DR. FRANCISCO JOSE GUERRERO, ADVISOR; BORIS ESERSKI AND NICHOLAS NASSER, MEMBERS, BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

2. ANEP IS AN ORGANIZATION MADE UP OF ABOUT TWENTY PRIVATE BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATIONS, CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND OTHER COMMERICAL INTEREST GROUPS. THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF EL SALVADOR IS A MEMBER OF THE ORGANIZATION, THOUGH AMCHAM LEADERS ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POLITICAL CHARACTER OF ANEP'S ACTIVITIES AND SOME FAVOR WITHDRAWING. ANEP IS THE LEADING AND MOST RESPECTABLE EXPONENT OF SALVADORAN CONSERVATISM. ALTHOUGH ANEP LEADERS HAVE HAD CLOSE TIES WITH GOES OFFICIALS UNDER BOTH THE MOLINA AND THE ROMERO GOVERNMENTS, THEY HAVE NOT HESITATED TO
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TAKE ON THE REGIME WHEN THEIR INTERESTS HAVE BEEN THREATENED. ANEP ORGANIZED AND LED AN IMPRESSIVE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MOLINA GOVERNMENT'S AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM IN LATE 1976, ACHIEVING VIRTUALLY ALL OF ITS GOALS THROUGH PRESSURE AND NEGOTIATION. MORE RECENTLY, ANEP ORGANIZED A MEDIA CAMPAIGN CRITICIZING PRESIDENT ROMERO FOR HIS ALLEGED SOFTNESS IN THE FACE OF THREATS

TO PUBLIC ORDER (ALTHOUGH THERE WERE SOME RUMORS THAT THIS CAMPAIGN WAS SECRETLY COORDINATED COORDINATED WITH THE GOVERNMENT) WHICH LED TO PASSAGE OF THE LEY DE ORDEN PUBLICO. ANEP GENERALLY SUPPORTS THE GOVERNMENT'S POINT OF VIEW, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY ON THE QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE ORGANIZATION HAS CONSIDERABLE FUND-RAISING CAPABILITY AND CONTRIBUTED GENEROUSLY TO ROMERO'S PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

3. FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIO SKETCHES OF ANEP LEADERS MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN:

EDUARDO LEMUS O'BYRNE. LEMUS IS A SELF-MADE MAN, ACTIVE HIMSELF OR THROUGH HIS FAMILY IN A WIDE VARIETY OF FIRMS. HE IS PRESIDENT OF QUALITY MEATS, WHICH EXPORTS BEEF TO THE US, BUT ALSO HAS INTERESTS IN POULTRY, EGG PRODUCTION AND CONSTRUCTION. HE IS TOUGH, HARD-DRIVING AND CONSIDERED ABRASIVE BY MANY. HE IS SAID TO BE IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH PRESIDENT ROMERO. LEMUS HAS HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY BUT HIS VIEWS ARE KNOWN TO BE HIGHLY CONSERVATIVE. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

ERNESTO RIVAS GALLONT. RIVAS IS INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF BUSINESSES, THE MOST IMPORTANT OF WHICH IS HIS POSITION AS MANAGING DIRECTOR OF CARIBE MOTORS, A VOLKSWAGEN DEALERSHIP. HE IS ACTIVE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND UNTIL RECENTLY WAS HEAD OF THE SALVADORAN RED CROSS. HE IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF FORMER PRESIDENT MOLINA AND HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ANEP'S POLITICAL

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ACTIVITIES. NOT A MEMBER OF THE SO-CALLED "FOURTEEN FAMILIES" HIMSELF, RIVAS HAS LONG BEEN A PRESENTABLE, ARTICULATE SPokesman (SOME WOULD SAY MESSENGER BOY) FOR SOME OF THE FAMILIES. RIVAS GRADUATED FROM PHILADELPHIA'S PENN STATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION IN 1950 AND SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH. HE HAS HAD CLOSE CONTACTS WITH THE EMBASSY BUT IN RECENT MONTHS HAS DEFINITELY AVOIDED CONTACT. HE IS FRIENDLY, SMOOTH TO THE POINT OF OILINESS AND VERY CONSERVATIVE IN HIS POLITICS.

FRANCISCO JOSE "CHACHI" GUERRERO. A LONG-TIME PCN POLITICIAN, GUERRERO HAS SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PCN. HE WAS FOREIGN MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE WAR WITH HONDURAS. NOT CURRENTLY HOLDING OFFICE, GUERRERO PRACTICES LAW AND POLITICS AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN. ROLY-POLY, AFFABLE AND A GOOD RACONTEUR, GUERRERO IS A PLEASANT DINNER COMPANION. POLITICALLY, HE IS REGARDED AS AN OPPORTUNIST AND IS CONSIDERED BY THE OPPOSITION AS A PARTICULARLY REPUGNANT REPRESENTATIVE OF EL SALVADOR'S RULING CLASS. HIS HOUSE WAS MACHINE-GUNNED IN 1976.

BORIS ESERSKI. ESERSKI HAS EXTENSIVE INTERESTS IN BROADCASTING, CONTROLLING TWO OF THE COUNTRY'S THREE PRIVATE TELEVISION CHANNELS AND A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT RADIO STATIONS. HE RECEIVED PART OF HIS EDUCATION IN CANADA. HE IS FLUENT IN ENGLISH. HE HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN A NUMBER OF BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS. ESERSKI RESIGNED AS HONORARY CONSUL OF PERU IN EL SALVADOR IN 1974 BECAUSE OF THE PERUVIAN GOVERNMENT'S NATIONALIZATIONS OF NEWSPAPERS. IN SPITE OF THIS STAND FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS, HE IS REGARDED AS HIGHLY CONSERVATIVE.

NICHOLAS NASSER. THERE IS LITTLE INFORMATION ON NASSER IN EMBASSY FILES. HE IS A PARTNER IN A FOOD AND BEVERAGE IMPORT/EXPORT FIRM. HE IS A REPRESENTATIVE OF EL SALVADOR'S THRIVING BUT SOCIALLY UNACCEPTED ARAB COMMUNITY. HE HAS HAD LITTLE CONFIDENTIAL

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CONTACT WITH THE EMBASSY AND HIS VIEWS ARE NOT KNOWN BUT MAY BE ASSUMED TO BE CONSERVATIVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANS00375
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: SAN SALVADOR
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Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 11 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3716419
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CALL BY ANEP LEADERS ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN
TAGS: OVIP, ES, (TODMAN, TERENCE A)
To: TEGUCIGALPA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3fc9a1e0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014